

R E M A R K S

Careful review and examination of the subject application are noted and appreciated.

SUPPORT FOR CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Support for the amendments to the claims can be found in the drawings as originally filed, for example, in FIGS. 2-6, and in the specification as originally filed, for example, on page 3, lines 9-20, on page 4, lines 13-19, and on page 6, line 2 through page 10, line 13. As such, no new matter has been introduced.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gryskiewicz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,392,712; herein after Gryskiewicz) in view of Boyce et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,592,299; hereinafter Boyce) has been obviated by amendment and should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 2-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gryskiewicz in view of Boyce in view of Ng et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,185,819; hereinafter Ng) and Kim et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,926,573; hereinafter Kim) has been obviated by amendment and should be withdrawn.

In contrast to the cited references, the presently claimed invention (claim 1) provides a method for decoding a

bitstream comprising the steps of (A) receiving a first encoded bitstream, where the first encoded bitstream comprises an intra-only frame picture encoded bitstream comprising a frame header and alternating macroblock rows, with each row containing data for a plurality of vertical lines from a single respective field, (B) generating a first field header and a second field header in response to the frame header of the first encoded bitstream, where the first field header comprises a copy of the frame header modified to signal a first field picture and the second field header comprises a copy of the frame header modified to signal a second field picture, (C) storing the first field header and macroblock rows containing the data for the plurality of vertical lines from a first field of the frame picture in a first buffer and storing the second field header and macroblock rows containing the data for the plurality of vertical lines from a second field of the frame picture in a second buffer and (D) generating a second encoded bitstream comprising (i) the first field header, (ii) the macroblock rows containing the data for the plurality of vertical lines from the first field of the frame picture, (iii) the second field header and (iv) the macroblock rows containing the data for the plurality of vertical lines from the second field of the frame picture, where the second encoded bitstream comprises an intra-only field picture encoded bitstream and is decodable as interlaced field pictures using an MPEG-2

compliant decoder. Claims 10 and 11 include similar limitations.

Gryskiewicz and Boyce do not teach or suggest each and every element of the presently claimed invention, as required to support a conclusion of obviousness under MPEP §2143. Specifically, the combination of Gryskiewicz and Boyce does not teach or suggest the steps of (B) generating a first field header and a second field header in response to the frame header of the first encoded bitstream, where the first field header comprises a copy of the frame header modified to signal a first field picture and the second field header comprises a copy of the frame header modified to signal a second field picture, (C) storing the first field header and macroblock rows containing the data for the plurality of vertical lines from a first field of the frame picture in a first buffer and storing the second field header and macroblock rows containing the data for the plurality of vertical lines from a second field of the frame picture in a second buffer and (D) generating a second encoded bitstream comprising (i) the first field header, (ii) the macroblock rows containing the data for the plurality of vertical lines from the first field of the frame picture, (iii) the second field header and (iv) the macroblock rows containing the data for the plurality of vertical lines from the second field of the frame picture, where the second encoded bitstream comprises an intra-only field picture encoded bitstream and is decodable as interlaced field pictures using an

MPEG-2 compliant decoder, as presently claimed. In particular, Gryskiewicz uses a decoder 102 to decode an interlaced video data stream 120 to obtain the odd and even video fields (124a and 124b). The odd and even video fields are combined into a progressive video frame 122. The progressive video frame 122 is mixed with another progressive video frame 130 and sent as an interlaced analog video signal to a display (see FIGS. 1 and 2 and Abstract of Gryskiewicz). Gryskiewicz appears silent regarding generating first and second field headers from a frame header. Furthermore, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not consider the even field 124a, the odd field 124b, the progressive video 122 or the output of the analog video encoder 158 to be the same as the presently claimed second encoded bitstream.

Boyce does not cure the deficiencies of Gryskiewicz. Specifically, Boyce states:

In accordance with the present invention, one field of a pair of field pictures is retained while the other field is replaced with a field that is represented by less data than the field which it is replacing. In order to insure MPEG compliance, the first field of the pair of field pictures is made, or selected to be an intracoded("I-") field picture.

For example, in one embodiment, if a first field, i.e., an I-field and a second field, which could be either an I-field or a predictively coded ("P-") field of a field picture pair are received, the second field picture is replaced with a field picture, e.g., a P-field which requires very little data.

In one embodiment, the second field is

made to be a P-field which is represented by very few bits by setting all difference data and motion vectors to 0, so that most of the macroblocks would be skipped resulting in a transparent field (column 6, lines 27-43 of Boyce).

Since Boyce states that the second field is replaced with a P-field which requires very little data, it follows that the second field according to Boyce does not comprise the macroblock rows containing the data for the plurality of vertical lines from the second field of the frame picture, as presently claimed. Furthermore, since Boyce states that the second field is replaced with a P-field, it follows that Boyce does not teach or suggest generating a second encoded bitstream comprising (i) the first field header, (ii) the macroblock rows containing the data for the plurality of vertical lines from the first field of the frame picture, (iii) the second field header and (iv) the macroblock rows containing the data for the plurality of vertical lines from the second field of the frame picture, where the second encoded bitstream comprises an intra-only field picture encoded bitstream and is decodable as interlaced field pictures using an MPEG-2 compliant decoder, as presently claimed.

Furthermore, the proposed modifications of Gryskiewicz and Boyce would render the references unsuitable for their intended purpose. Therefore, combination of Gryskiewicz and Boyce does not teach or suggest each and every element of the presently claimed invention. As such, the presently claimed invention is fully

patentable over the cited references and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-9 and 12-22 depend, directly or indirectly, from either claim 1 or claim 11 which are believed to be allowable. As such, the presently claimed invention is fully patentable over the cited reference and the rejection should be withdrawn.

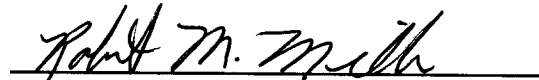
Accordingly, the present application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicant's representative between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET at 586-498-0670 should it be deemed beneficial to further advance prosecution of the application.

If any additional fees are due, please charge Deposit Account No. 12-2252.

Respectfully submitted,

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